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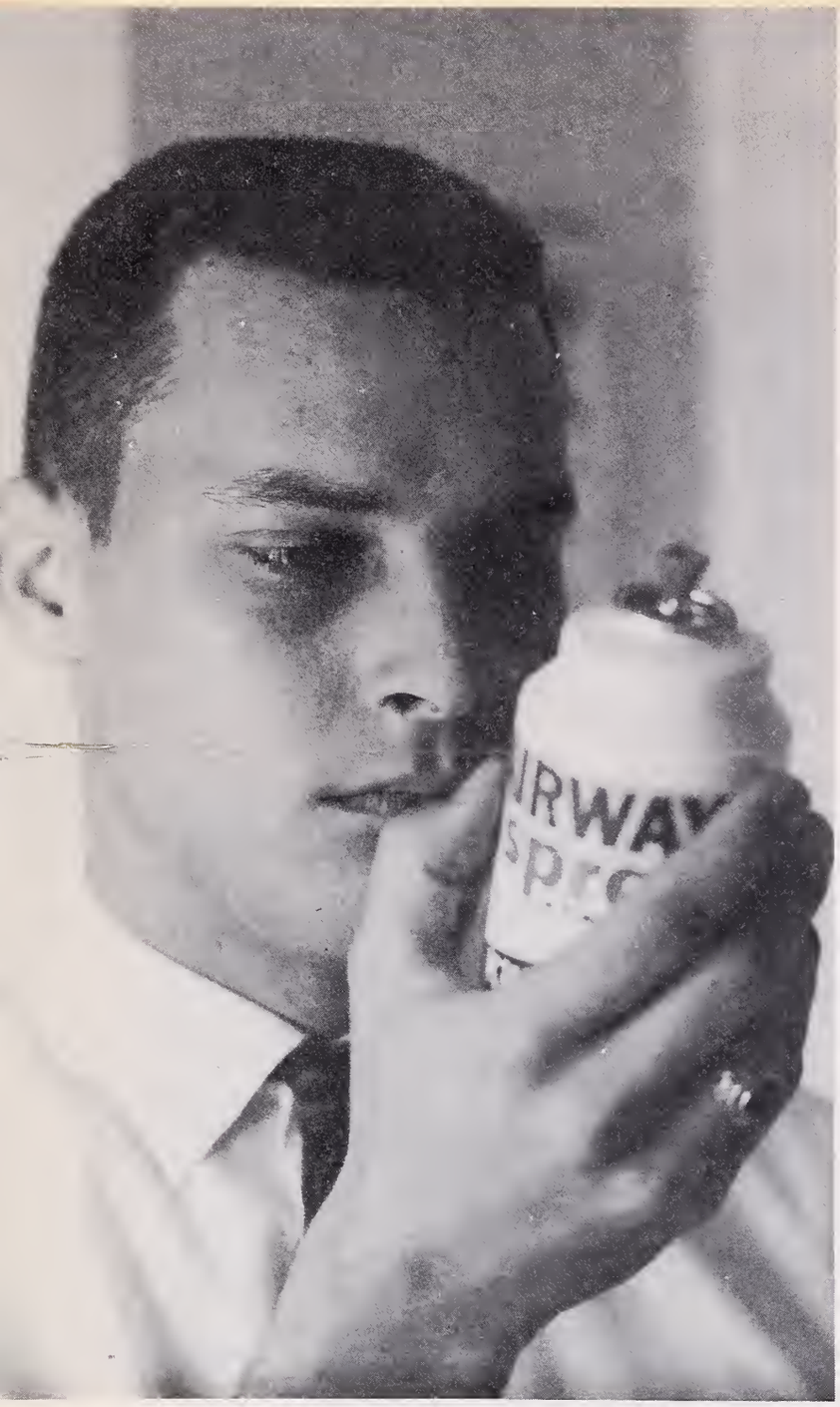
Use Pesticides Safely

This could be you—a homemaker returning home with groceries for your family, and—in your right hand—insecticides to use against household pests. Flies and roaches, with all their annoyance and the danger they bring to health, may have invaded the house recently.

You can effectively combat these common household pests by choosing from many products marketed for this purpose. But you must use these products carefully and intelligently, just as you must be prudent in using medicines, your automobile, or your electrical appliances. BN–19928

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, PICTURE STORY NO. 163 FEBRUARY 1964



Read the label—that's the first rule for intelligent use of pesticides. The U. S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for seeing that all pesticides in interstate commerce are labeled properly and that all information needed to protect the user is contained on the label.

But once these products leave the dealer's shelf for your home, safe use becomes your responsibility. You can't be careless with your medicine chest, with your power tools, or with your pesticides.

So, read the label. It lists the name of the pest you want to control and tells how to apply the insecticide. Then, follow all instructions and use no more than recommended amounts. Pesticides are poisons—*so heed all precautions on the label.* And, each time you re-use a pesticide, read the label again. Don't depend on your memory. BN–19846

A FEW PESTICIDE SAFETY DON'TS

- Don't save or re-use empty pesticide containers.
- Don't leave mothballs where children can find them.
- Don't use a pesticide in the home if a gas mask is required in using it.
- Don't use your mouth to blow out clogged sprayer lines or nozzle tips, or to siphon a pesticide from a container.
- Don't smoke while handling pesticides.
- Don't spray or dust outdoors when the wind is high.
- Don't apply pesticides near wells where they might contaminate the drinking water.

Read labels first when the products are still on the dealer's shelf. There is a large variety of pesticides from which to choose, and a hasty selection could be an unwise one. Buy for a specific need—it's better to make several trips to the store than to have numerous pesticides stored at home that you *might* need in the future. N-50825

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(Above) You would never think of spraying around your own dishes. Be equally careful with your pets. Remove their food and drinking water containers from a room that is to be sprayed. Also, be sure to remove fishbowls. N-[illegible]

(Left) Wash your hands thoroughly [illegible] handling a pesticide. BN-19840

(Right) Store pesticide [illegible] the reach of children—we just as you do with medici[illegible] or other poisons. Even are no youngsters in your home, put pesticides well aw[illegible] curious hands of visiti[illegible] bor children. Store the original containers—k[illegible] closed. Take special care pellets and poison ba[illegible] children can't reach th[illegible] 19841

Mix pesticides in a well-ventilated area, preferably out of doors, and keep children and pets out of the way. Avoid prolonged contact with the pesticide. BN-19924

Apply sprays and dusts out of doors only on still days—so the pesticide will be confined to the area needing treatment. BN-19925

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Empty pesticide containers go in the garbage can—immediately. And the lid goes on—tightly. Stopper empty bottles before you throw them way. From every point of view, it pays to dispose of used containers quickly and carefully. BN-19839

F tional information on safe handling of pesticides, request a copy of PA-589, SAFE USE OF PESTI- (from Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250, and "Safe Use o ides," No. C-118, filmstrip ($5.00) or slideset ($6.50) in cartoon form showing pesticides safety for the homeowner or gardener. Order from: Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20011.